

2-2011

Cedars, February 2011

Cedarville University

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CEDARS

The Student News Publication of Cedarville University

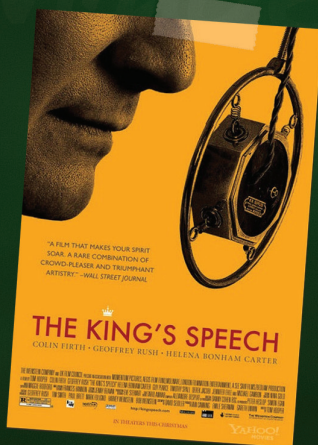
February 2011



Off to Hollywood!



Will Chuck's get more seats?



Media suggestions
from Cedars Editors

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by Rachel Stephens

CEDARS

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Just Sayin' ...

Only Four Years to Get Married?

When some students step onto a college campus, they begin to act like their dating eligibility will expire in four years — as if God can't possibly find them spouses outside of college. He has four years and counting. So plan to adopt 17 cats, buy World of Warcraft and hide in the basement for the rest of your sad, lonely life if you graduate single. Because clearly if you don't find your dreamboat in college, he or she does not exist.



Bekah Cvetich

I once encountered a guy who lived by this mantra. When I worked at the demonstration line in Chuck's last year (back when we had one), I was cooking a guy's food and he started talking about his future. He said, "I'm a senior. I'm graduating in three months and I don't even have a girlfriend. How am I going to get married and start a family?" I tried to encourage him that he could still do that later in his life, but instead he quickly asked, "Hey, do you want to go on a date with me tomorrow?"

For the mere entertainment of seeing where this would go, and for the sake of not embarrassing this guy, I said yes. So we had a Chuck's date (and he didn't even scan me in). I asked a grand total of one question the entire time. The rest of the "date" he spent explaining every detail of his life, his broken relationships and

quoting passages from the KJV Bible at me — for 45 minutes. It didn't work out between us.

I'm not sure why I accepted a date that set me up to be the last-ditch effort to find a wife. And, because he clearly had so little time before he was cursed to be single eternally, he felt the need to pour before me each piece of his personal life the first time we talked. It was as if the regurgitation of his life story would make me jump into his arms immediately to save both of us from our "single illness." Not so much.

Maybe I accepted because I fall into this trap too. After all, this will probably be the only time when I will be in contact with this many Christian men my age. But God doesn't need to work within the probable. He's God. Human constrictions don't apply to Him. So I've stopped shoving God's abilities into a 4-year box because I know He knows what He is doing. I certainly do not.

For instance, when God created Adam, Adam didn't go running around trying to date all the animals because he was lonely. No, he waited for God to bring him the perfect match — Eve. And when God did, it was even better than Adam could have ever imagined. So moral of the story: don't go around dating animals when God will bring you something beautiful later. Don't spend your four years worrying about getting married. God has more plans for your college career than getting you hitched.



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Beware the ides of...

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		General Recital Interruption: Levi Crowley		Interruption: Starner Vechery and Grant McCurdy	Spring Break	
		Art in the Open: Jim Hendrix				
		1	2	3	4	5
Spring Break						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	Interruption: Kyle Schick		St. Patrick's Day 	Bach's Lunch: Jazz Band & Vocal Arts Ensemble	Senior Theatre Project: Katherine Nelson
Spring Break						
13						
First Day of Spring 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28				Musical Chairs	A Night of Art with Dr. and Mrs. Brown
		29	30	31	1	2

Off-Campus Events

1 - John Glenn to Speak at Statehood Day Event, Ohio Statehouse

4 - First Friday Art Hop 5 p.m. Oregon Historic District, Dayton

12 - Dayton Art Institute Contemporary Art from the Dicke Collection

The Demerits

"St. Patrick's Night on the Town"
Cedarville Opera House

March 17

Restructured Academic Departments to Come

NEXT



by Zack Anderson

This aerial view of Cedarville University includes a rendering of the new health professions building that is under construction next to the Stevens Student Center.

Cedarville's academic division will have a new look next fall. The changes, which will revamp how Cedarville's majors are structured into broader categories and add new academic branches, were approved by the Board of Trustees at the Jan. 26-27 meeting, Academic Vice President Tom Cornman said.

Cedarville's five schools will be restructured into three colleges: Arts and Sciences, Health Professions and Professions.

"We organized into the three areas that would fit future growth," Cornman said.

Each college will consist of several academic departments. In addition, the College of Health Professions will have the School of Pharmacy. Cornman said this is because the pharmacy accreditor requires pharmacy to be either a school or a college.

The departments don't necessarily have to be departments forever, though.

"Every other department will have the opportunity at regular intervals to apply for school status," Cornman said.

Several departments will undergo changes in name or majors. Art and Design will be renamed Art & Design and Theatre, as it will be taking theatre from the current Communication Arts department. The Communication Arts department will be renamed Media and Applied Communications, and the Technical and Professional Communication major from the current Department of Language and Literature will move there.

**"We organized
into the three
areas that would
fit future growth."**

*Tom Cornman
academic vice
president*

Charles Elliott, chair of the Department of Communication Arts and future chair of Media and Applied Communications, said the new name gives the department direction for the future. He said the school is in the process of moving the department, which began as a speech communication department, into a broader field.

Cornman mentioned the changing nature of media as a reason for the changes in the Communication Arts department. He said the new department will focus on the future of media.

"We need to stop teaching to 10 years ago and start teaching to 10-to-20 years into the future," Cornman said.

Another change will be the splitting up of the Department of Social Work, Criminal Justice and Sociology. Social Work will be a department in the College of Health Professions. Criminal Justice and Sociology will find their

home in the History and Government department in the College of Arts and Sciences, Cornman said.

A new part of the academic division created by the changes is the Center for Biblical Integration. Dan Estes, the current dean of the School of Biblical and Theological Studies and the future director of the Center for Biblical Integration, said that for a long time Cedarville said one of its major objectives was bringing together Christianity, learning and life. Estes said the university hasn't been truly driven by this yet. The purpose of the new Center for Biblical Integration is to change that.

"There's a lot of different directions that this center can go," Estes said. He said he wants people around the world to look to Cedarville for how to integrate faith with their discipline.

In addition to the three previously mentioned colleges, two other main sections of the reorganization exist. Educational Resources "has to do with the support services we need to accomplish the tasks that we've been charged with fulfilling," Cornman said.

The last main section, the College of Extended Learning, is about the growth in online options, graduate studies and continuing education Cedarville President Bill Brown talked about in chapel Feb. 14, Cornman said.

"Through the College of Extended Learning, we have the ability to move into a variety of non-traditional options that will allow us to grow in areas that we're not currently handling as well," he said.

Academic Reorganization

Cedarville's board of trustees has approved a new organizational model that will take effect just before the 2011-12 school year. There will be no curricular changes next year as a result of the reorganization. Department names are subject to change.

	Educational Resources	College of Extended Learning	College of Arts and Sciences	College of Health Professions	College of Professions
Academic Human Resources	Assistant Academic Vice President	Senior Associate Academic Vice President	Associate Academic Vice President	Associate Academic Vice President*	Associate Academic Vice President
Center for Biblical Integration	Office of Accreditation	Center for Program Development	Biblical and Ministry Studies	School of Pharmacy	Engineering and Computer Science
Computer Services	Office of Institutional Effectiveness	Academic Enrichment Center	Science and Mathematics	Assistant Academic Vice President*	Business Administration
Library	Special Academic Programs	Center for Teaching and Learning	English, Literature, and Modern Languages	Nursing	Education
Office of the Registrar		Continuing Education Programs	Art, Design and Theatre	Kinesiology and Allied Health	Media and Applied Communications
		Institutional Review Board	Music and Worship	Psychology	
			History and Government	Social Work	
					*Health Professions position remains unfilled until 2016. Pharmacy leadership reports directly to the Academic Vice President. Other departments report to Assistant AVP of Health Professions until 2016.

2020 Vision

Dr. Brown and the trustees have put together a strategic map with a plan to increase Cedarville University's overall enrollment to 10,000 students by 2020. Here are some highlights Dr. Brown shared in a recent chapel.

Increase the diversity of the student and faculty/staff to 15 percent.

Double the number of international students from 35 to 70 annually.

Increase the number of transfer students from 110 to 200 annually.

Enroll 300-800 additional students in traditional campus-based programs as a result of adding new programs and intentionally expanding into new student markets.

Rapidly expand online offerings with the goals of enrolling over 6,000 new students in online programs.

Chuck's Could Have a New Look in Fall

by Zak Weston

If the university administration approves the proposed renovation plans, Chuck's will be transformed over the summer. Food Services Supervisor Chuck McKinney said he expects to implement the plans quickly.

"I want to start the day after graduation, and be done by July first," McKinney said.

The goal of the renovation plans is to offer more options in fewer locations, he said. No current offerings would be eliminated, but many food and drink options would be consolidated.

The changes would begin where customers walk in. The current beverage station near the entrance would be replaced with a full, two-sided breakfast bar. This bar would feature all the current breakfast staples such as bagels, toasters, waffle makers, milk and breakfast cereal. The yogurt bar, juice dispensers and fancy coffee machines would also be included, McKinney said.

The stairway leading to the mezzanine (known to student as "Up-Chuck's") would be widened, and its entrance would face the main food service area. The dessert bar and the ice cream station would be placed beside the stairway to the mezzanine. The fruit bar would also be moved, completely opening up the main service area. Both existing salad bars would be replaced with a U-shaped, single-sided salad station with interior access for workers.

The current first home-cooking line would become the Mexican food line, and the second would be converted into the grill station. The current grill line would be replaced with the pizza and pasta station. The present Mexican bar would become the veggie line. What is now pizza and pasta would be switched over to home cooking. The fresh bread and vegetable patch station would be replaced by a new sub-zone with wells for desserts and space for rotisserie chicken near the current sandwich line.

Beverage stations would be shifted as well.

One beverage station would be on the wall next to the emergency stairwell by the large windows. Another would be placed near the middle of the seating area, featuring a four-sided design. A third would be placed next to the stairwell leading to the mezzanine.

Seating would also be affected. If the plans are approved, the breakfast bar and ice cream station would be replaced with booths. McKinney said he also plans to implement a suggestion from the SGA Culinary Committee for two-person tables in the mezzanine, addressing the issue of couples taking up tables for six or eight.

"Our goal is to reduce 'nesting,'" McKinney said. "Since we have so many people to feed, we must keep turnover high."

Current capacity is approximately 1,200 people, and McKinney said he hopes to add up to 50 new seats in an effort to handle the cafeteria's growing usage.

These overhauls would come on the heels of some minor changes made over this past summer, including the substitution of the industrial grill for the griddles in the self-cook line and the addition of rotisserie chicken.

According to McKinney, the rotisserie chicken has not been as popular as anticipated, although the feedback on the taste and quality has been stellar. In contrast, the self-cook station and sandwich smashers have been in high demand. McKinney said he plans to add another industrial grilling surface and doubling the number of sandwich smashers.

Little new equipment would be required, he said, and most of the current equipment would be kept, although one of the two rotisserie ovens might be sold to another school serviced by Pioneer College Caterers, Inc.

But all these changes would be more than functional.

"We plan to eliminate the colored-tile look and update to something more modern and trendy," he said.

McKinney said he also hopes to replace the carpet, but because of summer facility demands, new carpeting might have to wait until Christmas Break later this year.

The proposals are still in the planning stages, McKinney said, and nothing is guaranteed until he receives final approval from the university. But if all goes as planned, Chuck's will look vastly different when students return next August.



Photo by Stuart Li

If the administration approves the changes being requested for Chuck's, everyone will feel like a freshman their first few meals in the fall. Just about everything would be in a different place.

After Mubarak Steps Down, Students Step Up to Internalize Crisis in Egypt

by Kate Cella

Weeks of massive demonstrations in Cairo prompted Frank Jenista, a Cedarville professor of international studies and senior foreign service officer, to push his students outside the classroom and a little closer to Tahrir Square.

On Feb. 3, at the climax of the crisis in Egypt, Jenista introduced to his international relations class a special speaker with a unique claim to fame: Kamel Abraham, an Egyptian-American who was a former classmate of Ayman al-Zawahiri — al-Qaeda's second-in-command and the world's most wanted terrorist second only to Osama bin Laden.

Abraham, who now works as an anesthesiologist in Springfield and sent four of his children to Cedarville University, grew up in Egypt and was able to provide Jenista's class a challenging, insightful perspective on the revolutionary protests in his home country.

Commensurate with Jenista's teaching style, the international relations students studied ample readings on the subject in preparation for the notorious daily five-question quiz. Although Abraham rescued the class from their quiz, the prior preparation fueled active engagement with the special speaker, a question-and-answer time lacking a single pause, and deepened internalization of the topic on the part of the international relations students.

"It's one thing to read about it from Western perspectives," said senior international studies student Christine Miller. "But to have a perspective on it much closer to the issue makes it so much more real."

Abraham's presentation countered some notions about Egypt's situation that stem from an American perspective, reminding students of the "rule of the loaf of bread" in Egypt, that hunger is more often the catalyst in popular dissent than just politics.

"He minimized the role of the Muslim Brotherhood," Miller said, "and explained to us that even though it is a significant presence in Egypt, it is not as much of a threat as the media makes it out to be."

Abraham also told students that American approaches to the unrest in Egypt must be cognizant of Egyptian nationalism — Egypt has to solve Egypt's problems.

"The United States has to be careful not to get



Photo by Scott L. Huck

Frank Jenista, a professor of international studies, invited an Egyptian-American from Springfield to speak to a class about the recent events in Egypt.

ahead of itself," Jenista explained, elaborating on Abraham's view. "It has to walk that tightrope between supporting a democratic outcome and interference — and remember that democracy works differently in different countries."

Jenista took a different approach in his Global Issues class, which he divided up into groups to simulate the role of national security advisors to President Obama.

"I had them identify key American national interests in the situation, which as of now is to protect its relationship with the Egyptian

military, which is the true center of gravity in Egypt and with Israel," he said.

Jenista also encouraged his students to think outside the box, or in the case of Egypt's struggle for democracy, outside the Arab world.

"People who advocate that the Muslim world can't support democracy have to remember Indonesia — a stable Muslim democracy instituted after popular demonstrations just like Egypt's. Egypt's primary goals, just like Indonesia's, should be eradicating extremism and guiding a smooth transition to democracy."

Mr. Hickling Goes to Hollywood

Senior theatre student leaves school to pursue acting career

by Holly McClellan

Ambition.

That's the word Jordan Hickling used to characterize his biggest motivation for the life-changing move he made over Christmas break.

A senior theatre major, Hickling has been a fixture of Cedarville performances throughout

his college career, including his most recent starring role as Algernon in the university's fall production of "The Importance of Being Earnest." Enamored with acting since childhood, Hickling recently admitted to feeling as though he'd been on cruise control, simply going through the motions of high school and college. But all those years, he said, a dream had been forming in the back of his mind. The first semester of his senior year, he decided to

reach for it.

"So I got in the car, drove 3,000 miles, and here I am."

Now, "here" for Hickling is Los Angeles, film capital of the world. For this thespian, it was time to get out of the classroom and start garnering real-world experience.

In a recent phone interview, Hickling explained that the gutsy move didn't come without careful consideration.

"I'm not completely stupid to the point where I'm going to just get in the car, drive to L.A., and say, 'Hey, I'm here!'" he said. He had been in contact with several Cedarville alumni in southern California for over a year, and they had kept a spot open for him to room with them.

"It was a major plus," he said. "The first thing you want is a place to stay."

With contacts, housing, and money secured, he said that while the trip itself was spontaneous, it had been in the works since his childhood. But he still knew the decision would be met with varying reactions.

After formally making the decision over Thanksgiving break, Hickling said, "I got back to Cedarville and had a lot of explaining to do, especially with my adviser. I told him my plan, and the first words to come out of his mouth were, 'Just go for it!' I couldn't believe it."

Hickling said that he thought his adviser, assistant theatre professor Bob Clements, would try to tell him to finish his education first. But Hickling said the professor was supportive.

"He said, 'I can't say anything. You are driven by ambition and a dream. I can't stop that, and I don't want to stop that.'"

And while Clements himself declined to comment on what he believed was a private matter, he did say that he wished his student the best of luck.

"I'll be keeping him in my prayers," he said, then continued with a laugh. "All I have to say is, he better win an Oscar, and thank me in his speech when he does."

Hickling said one of the questions he's answered most is how his family reacted to the monumental decision. He was glad to report



Photo by Jonathan Moultroup

Jordan Hickling's portrayal of Algernon Moncrief in the comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest" in the fall of 2010 is one of the many roles he has played in Cedarville theatre productions. Since moving to Los Angeles, Hickling has appeared as a featured extra in a VH1 pilot.

that his parents had been very supportive, saying that he should make the venture, knowing that he had “enough of a safety net to fall back on.”

“They had a joint feeling of ‘he needs to try this’ and ‘we’re OK with that,’ as long as he keeps trusting in God,” Hickling said. “They want me to keep my focus on Christ and the one who gave me this desire to move to L.A.”

Now that he’s in Hollywood, Hickling said he’s grateful for the foundation Cedarville theatre gave him.

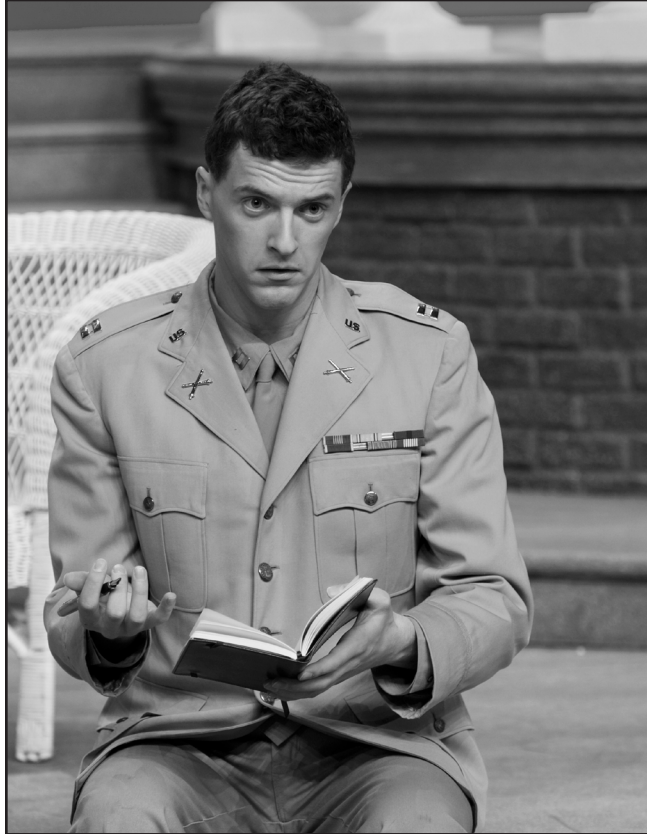
“It’s a great experience, and they teach you to see God in every aspect of your art,” he said.

With 17 credits remaining to attain his degree, Hickling plans to graduate from Cedarville at some point, though finishing is not currently a priority.

“I will get my degree,” he said. “Write this down: I’m an advocate for education.”

“If you have a degree, you’re more respected. If you don’t and you’re an actor, that’s probably all right. But if you’re anything else, you’re not going to make it out here at all.”

After only a few weeks in Los Angeles, Hickling said the venture had already started to bear fruit. He’s been in contact with a producer and found an agent who is interested in representing him. He’s even appeared as a featured extra in a VH1 pilot.



Photos by Jonathan Moultroup

Jordan Hickling said his family wants him “to keep my focus on Christ and the one who gave me this desire to move to L.A.”



“Already God has been putting my foot in the door,” he said.

For now, Hickling is content, and hopeful about the future.

“I made it, I prayed about it, and I feel that if it were the wrong decision, God wouldn’t have allowed it to work out because it’s not what he wanted,” he said.

“I believe this is where he wants me right now. Why? I don’t know. I don’t know if he wants me out here for acting, or maybe just to realize this isn’t my place. It’s going to take some time and money to figure that out. As of right now I’m glad I made that decision.”

Many Students Volunteer at Fire Department

by Jonathan Bundy

Rick Marriott wasn't excited by anything at the Career Fair until he remembered his father talking about volunteering at the fire department.

Randy Marriott was a paramedic and firefighter while he attended Cedarville University. Twenty-five years after his father graduated, Rick Marriott is volunteering just like his father did.

"It's a lifestyle," said Marriott, who is a junior pre-medical/biology major.

The fire department has a long tradition of having student volunteers. Fire Chief Scott Baldwin said the trend started in the late 1970s. Baldwin said he's had some negative experiences with students, but the majority have been overwhelmingly positive.

"I think some of them look at this as a ministry," Baldwin said. "At a lot of places they go on mission trips, but there is a lot to do locally."

Assistant Fire Chief Kyle Miller said 21 out of 42 volunteers are students.

"Some of our best people we've had down here have been students," Miller said.

Miller graduated from Cedarville University in 1998. He volunteered while he was a student and joined the department full-time in 2003. He said there are many volunteers that graduated from Cedarville, found jobs in the area, and continued volunteering at the fire department.

More students started volunteering when Cedarville started its EMT program, which is how most students find out about volunteering. The Cedarville University EMS handles emergency calls on campus. This year, all of the university EMTs are also volunteers at the fire department.

"They get to experience some things that the ordinary person will never experience," Baldwin said.

Being a volunteer at the fire department is a large time commitment for students. Baldwin said he frequently needs to remind students that school is their first priority.

Marriott started out as an EMT, but he grew interested in firefighting after witnessing several vehicle fires. He took a 36-hour firefighter class during May term and experienced his first house fire this September.

When the firefighters arrived at the scene,



Photo courtesy of Rick Marriott

Rick Marriott volunteers at the Cedarville fire department like his father did 25 years ago. Half of the department's 42 volunteers are Cedarville University students.



Photo by Jonathan Bundy

flames could be seen coming out of the house. Marriott went to the second floor with the hose. He said it was almost unbearably hot, and he suddenly realized he would be dead without his gear.

"I thought, 'What series of events put me into

this situation?'" Marriott said.

But then it was back to business. Marriott acknowledged that being a firefighter sometimes involves doing things that are counter-intuitive — like going toward fire instead of away from it.

"When the pager goes off, it's 'go' time," Marriott said.

Student volunteer Steven Kostusyk said he was nervous the first time going to a scene, but after awhile he got into a groove.

"Sometimes it's a big adrenaline rush, especially going to the scene," Kostusyk said.

Being a volunteer at the fire department is intense, and it is sometimes physically and mentally draining. Miller said that it isn't for everyone.

"It hits some of them too especially when you're on your first fatal accident, and you haven't seen a dead person before besides in a TV show or in a movie," Miller said.

Sometimes people are nervous when the EMTs or firefighters arrive and they are college-aged. Miller said student volunteers have experienced this before, and the fears are ungrounded.

"They have the same certification as everybody else," he said.

Miller is confident that student volunteers perform well in tough situations.

"We've been on some bad calls when emotions have been high and people have done really well."

Miller said the Cedarville fire department is unique because of its student volunteers. The advantage to student volunteers is youth and excitement, but the disadvantage is inexperience. Miller explained that they have a high turnover rate because most students volunteer for two or three years and then they graduate.

"None of them are being paid to be here," Miller said. "They're all doing because it's something they want to do and help the community, and they see it as a ministry."

Rick Marriott has had a positive experience volunteering at the fire department, and said he wants to go into emergency medicine or trauma surgery.

"It's been a blast," he said.

Lady Jacket Overcomes Injuries

Martin happy to have Jenna Smith back and making a difference

by Katie Laustsen

Athletes fear few things more than season-ending injuries. Lady Jackets basketball player Jenna Smith has faced it not once, but three times.

Over the last year and a half, Smith has injured her knee three times, leaving her in a constant state of recovery and recuperation.

Smith finished her first season as a Lady Jacket with 29 starts and an average of 8.8 points and 5.9 rebounds a game. She entered last season expecting to play far into the postseason. But during a preseason scrimmage at Mount Vernon, she suffered season-ending torn ACL and MCL injuries.

Just two months after her ACL surgery, Smith fell and broke cartilage in her already weak knee, which forced her out of the gym for another six months.

"I just felt bad for her," head coach Kirk Martin said. "[Jenna] understand[s] what Cedarville basketball is about, and what we're trying to accomplish, and just [loves] being part of the program. ... Her missing time to play is disappointing for me because it was disappointing for her."

She finally returned to the court this season and immediately changed the team.

"We've said this all year long that if her health came along, she is the difference maker to make us a team that is totally different than what we are right now," Martin said.

On Dec. 7, 2010, exactly a year after her ACL surgery, Smith fell on her knee during a game against Wilberforce and partially tore her PCL.

"When I walked off the court that day, I thought I would never play basketball again," Smith said.

This final injury nearly convinced Smith to give basketball up for good.

"Basketball comes second to nursing," Smith said. "Anytime that basketball starts making my future in nursing more difficult, it's got to go because my number one desire is to be a nurse."

Smith sat out the rest of December, but she returned to action on Jan. 4 and has played with broken cartilage and a partially torn PCL in every game since then. Her intelligence on the court and support as an additional post player



Photo by Jonathan Moultroupe
Jenna Smith will be back as a fifth-year senior next year on what will be a young team. "She loves leadership, and she's going to have all of it she can stand," says head coach Kirk Martin.

immediately contributed to the team.

"Honestly, I wasn't sure if she'd be even able to come back and play again, so it was definitely nice to have her back on the floor," teammate Rachel Hurley said.

Since her return in January, Smith has increased her minutes and has scored in the double digits twice.

"She knows how good and capable she can be," Martin said. "We call her our smartest player."

Smith will play one final season for the Lady Jackets because she redshirted her freshman year to handle basketball and a nursing major. Although she knows that her knee could give out and end her basketball career at any time, she still looks forward to serving as a leader on next year's team.

"I'm looking forward to establishing what Lady Jacket basketball is at a higher division of NCAA play and really helping the freshmen and sophomores understand that," Smith said.

Martin and Hurley agree that Smith's hard work ethic and intelligence on the court will set the team's standard. Martin will look to her to fill the leadership gap the four graduating seniors will leave.

"We're so phenomenally young next year. She loves leadership, and she's going to have all of it she can stand," Martin said.

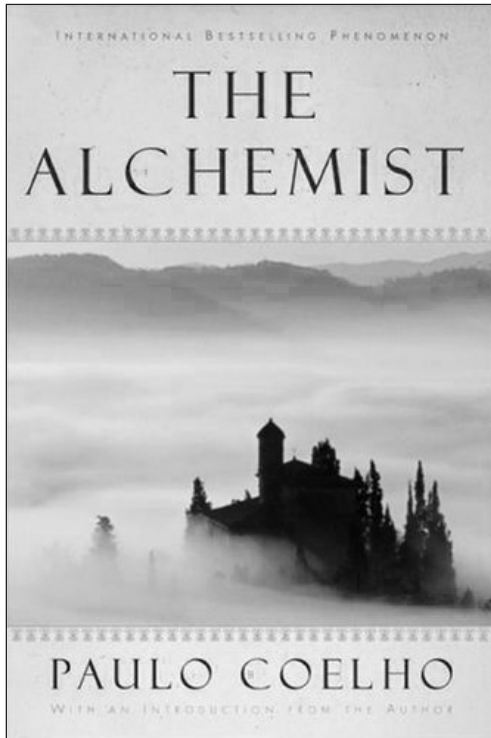
Even though Smith cannot wait until she can compete as well as she did before her injury, she said the time away from basketball gave her focus and clarity into why she decided to play basketball in the first place.

"Basketball is a gift to me from God, and I'm supposed to use it back for His glory,"

she said. "[I'm] really concentrating on each day, each play, whether I'm playing well or whether I'm playing not well, giving the glory to God and seeking opportunities to make His name known."

Book Review: 'The Alchemist'

by Holly McClellan



From the pen of a Roman Catholic convert comes a brilliant little novel called "The Alchemist." Native Brazilian Paulo Coelho is a creator of numerous other "simple yet profound" short novels that have reached a vast audience around the globe. "The Alchemist" has been translated into 60 languages with over 65 million copies

sold internationally. It is one of the record bestsellers in the world.

Told in fable-like fashion, the story follows a young man Santiago's journey from the pastures of Spain to the deserts of Egypt. He follows a dream; there is treasure to be found in the pyramids, a great treasure that he was destined specifically to find. Along the way, Santiago encounters the many dangers of the world — thieves, bandits, tribal wars and the perilous wilderness of his own doubts.

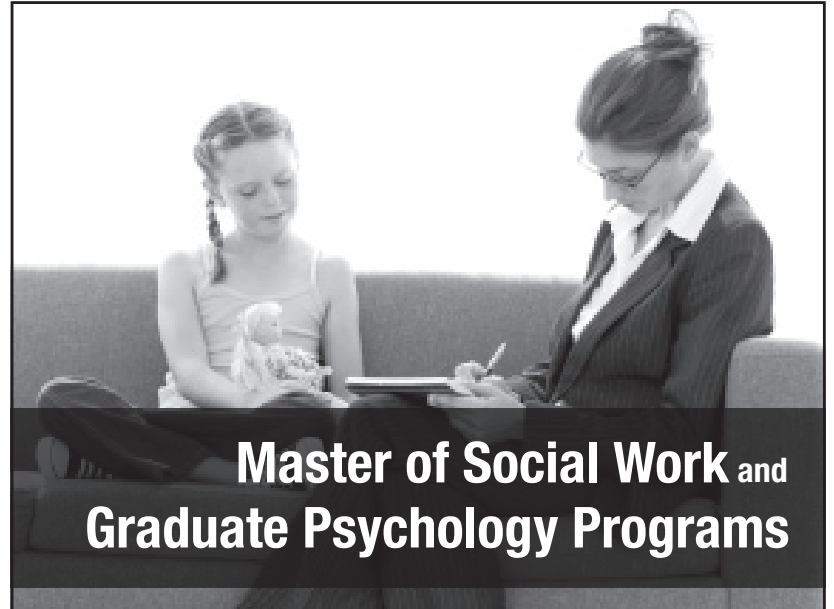
Coelho deftly develops this character through multiple self-discovery epiphanies, the story progressing as Santiago grasps certain life concepts. These include ideas such as "personal legends" and discovering "the Soul of the world" as well as the "fundamental virtue" of listening to one's heart. Santiago also must learn to interpret omens and signs, which are scattered along his path to lead him to his destination. He also discovers a language the whole world seems to speak, and through it he can even speak to the wind and the sun.

As inherently complex as Coelho's themes about the nature of the world and man are, Coelho presents them with a quaint uncomplicated diction and pure voice. He is obviously not out to confound, but to expound. His aim is undeniably spiritual in nature; Coelho strives to reconnect his readers with their own dreams. The audience can feel innately connected with Santiago's struggles, especially his intense longings, unfulfilled desires and doubts, yet also be uplifted by his spiritual revelations.

Unfortunately his recurring ideas tend to lack the crispness of fresh originality. Infused with new-age philosophy, the somewhat hackneyed maxim "listen to your heart" appears as one of the key revelations Santiago experiences. At this point

it begins to feel a little like a children's book. Children can certainly read it; Coelho's style transcends all generations and cultures. It is likely because of the accessibility of his universally gripping and familiar themes, and not their profundity, that this book receives such high acclaim.

Overall, "The Alchemist" is a poignant metaphorical tale. Thoroughly thought-provoking, its 167 pages fly by effortlessly. Coelho's genius and beautiful storytelling skill, though perhaps philosophically deviant in a modern, rapidly advancing milieu, place Coelho among the authors of undeniably formative works of the late 20th Century.



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Lessons Learned

from the Arts & Entertainment Industry 2010-2011

by Kate Cella

Lesson One:

Rampart (rām pärt , -pərt) n. a fortification consisting of an embankment; a means of protection or defense, bulwark.



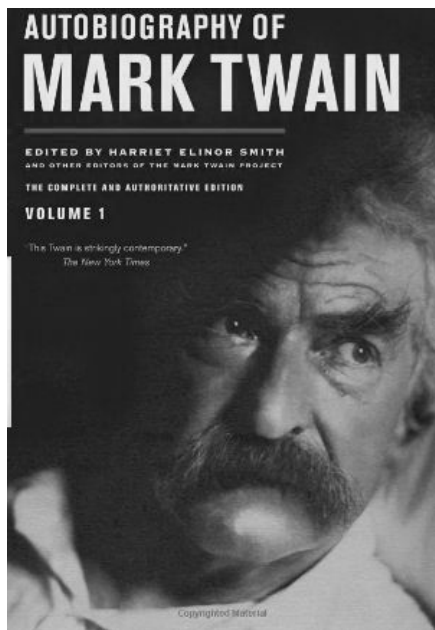
Perhaps the United States of America would do better to forget about citizenship tests for naturalization candidates and direct its concern toward ensuring that American citizens can make

it through at least the first verse of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” particularly if they intend to perform it live at the country’s most-watched sporting event of the year. At least spectators of Super Bowl XLV will remember that we indeed hailed the Star-Spangled Banner waving at the twilight’s last gleaming ... and at the twilight’s last gleaming, also.

Lesson Three:

Legacy: The Right Way To Do an Autobiography

To plan ahead for a second round of popular interest in your life a century after you die, tell your publisher not to sell the entirety of your autobiography for 100 years. Mark Twain’s fear that the content of his memoirs would meet heated rejection if the volume followed closely after his death morphed into something more like a master marketing plan; the New York Times reported in late 2010 that publishers could not keep enough copies of Twain’s autobiography on store shelves.



Lesson Five:

A Word on Reality Shows and Reality Shows on a Word



Few television series have ever been predicated entirely on one word, and perhaps even fewer on a racial slur now limp with ludicrousness like macaroni in store-bought tomato sauce. MTV’s “Jersey Shore” series managed to not only resurrect the word “guido” right out of the ethnically hostile streets of early 20th century Manhattan, but to make this stereotype an object of almost mythical curiosity in one of television’s most bizarre hits. The series attracted the condemnation of both New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who opposed the derogatory portrayal of his state, and Italian-American organizations, which opposed the derogatory portrayal of Italians. Both groups should rest assured, though. Most of “Jersey Shore’s” cast is neither from New Jersey nor are they Italian-American.

Lesson Two:

Whatever happened to “less is more”?

Lady Gaga risked both jettisoning her legacy further into the black hole of absurdity as well as a class action lawsuit from Yoshi for transportation copyright infringement by arriving at the Grammy Awards in Eggland’s Best’s new luxury sedan. Apparently, Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta (clearly the reason why she prefers “Lady Gaga”) spent the three hours preceding her appearance “incubating” in the egg to get into character — a duration clearly much longer than the time she’s ever spent evaluating her eugenic influence on American youth.

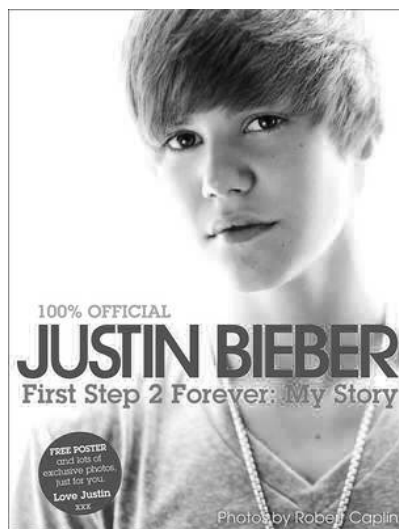


Lesson Four: Legacy, continued:

The Wrong Way to Do an Autobiography

As if hijacking the American music industry at age 16 isn’t enough, publishing an autobiography detailing those tremendously fascinating 16 years borders on heinous. Perhaps if Justin Bieber were to write an autobiography at a more appropriate time, say perhaps after his five minutes of fame, he’ll have his mother to thank for upload-

ing YouTube videos of his talent shows that actuated his near-instant rise to fame from low-income housing in Canada to the radio’s top 15 list in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. He will also have Scooter Braun and the Raymond Braun Media Group to thank for sealing his fate as a fleeting, obnoxious kid pop star instead of creating a legend like “Bieber Five.” But maybe that borders on heinous too ... and a little blasphemous.



Thoughts on

... Facebook

Ever feel like everyone except you has it all together?

by Rachel Stephens

Last year, I spent hours looking at other girls' wedding albums on Facebook. I loved getting ideas from their flower choices or inspiration from their locations. I found it even more interesting once these new brides started posting about the bliss they called newlywed life. Their adorable apartments, immaculately cleaned, and the gourmet meals cooked every evening sent me off into hours of daydreams about my own spotless abode and tasty delicacies.

Over this summer, I got married, put up my own albums of wedding photos, and moved into my own apartment. Upon moving in, I set to work. I had grand plans of buying furniture, hanging curtains, printing oodles of pictures and making that apartment look like us in every way that a home can. But before I could start, I had to unpack.

At the end of the week, the unpacking still wasn't done, and I was sick of it. I wanted my apartment to be beautiful, but at this point I would settle for clean. Or semi-organized. Or not having boxes stacked precariously in every conceivable corner of the apartment. I compromised with myself by moving all the boxes into the spare bedroom, which has been known as the "scary room" ever since.

I would go on Facebook and wonder how these girls managed to have such nice neat apartments. They never had dirty dishes in the sink, there were never piles of laundry in the closet, and somehow they always had steaming three-course meals ready at 5 o'clock when their husbands got home, even if these super-wives also worked full time.

I, on the other hand, had piles of dishes, mountains of laundry and Hamburger Helper on a good night. I started to get jealous, but I didn't know it. I compared myself to these girls subconsciously. Instead of looking at what they were saying objectively, I took it to be the norm. This led me to believe that no one else had the same problems I did when it came to housekeeping.

Now, anyone who is familiar with the patterns of depression knows that this is a bad sign. A girl who assumes that the Vogue models are normal will automatically think negative thoughts about herself; she doesn't have to try. In the same way, I was assuming that the airbrushed lives of my friends were normal, and it caused me to think poorly of myself.

I could never do anything right in my own eyes. My almost-daily lament to my husband became "I'm a lousy wife!" Nothing he said could convince me otherwise, because I couldn't understand why I couldn't be "perfect like everybody else."

Now, I understand that this isn't the problem that faces most students. It could be that everybody seems to be in a relationship except for you. Maybe, all your friends are engaged and your boyfriend doesn't get the hint. Maybe you have tech envy; you're totally sick of every post declaring that it was posted via iPhone, or you want a Kindle because everyone else has one.

If any of this sounds at all familiar, you may be comforted to know that you aren't alone. A study by Stanford University said that students who use social networking sites like Facebook tend to underestimate how often their peers are unhappy, and overestimate how often they are happy. Similarly, students who assumed others' lives were happier than their own felt unhappy and felt more alone in their unhappiness.

As easy as it is, don't fall into the trap of assuming that everyone else is happier than you are. They are only posting the best things about themselves. Think about it, do you tell all of Facebook when you flunk a test? How about when you douse your favorite sweater in coffee? Nobody else does, either. And because people don't post everything about themselves, everyone gets a false impression. Just remember that the people you are jealous of are likely jealous of you, too.

... Black History Month

A Tribute to Édouard Glissant

by Kate Cella

One chapter of black history concluded rather quietly in America this month, perhaps neglected even in the commemoration of figures like Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barack Obama.

Martiniquais writer Édouard Glissant died on Feb. 3, not only a prolific poet and novelist but a poignant visionary who brandished his resplendent prose against slavery and racism in the French Caribbean. A graduate of the Sorbonne, Glissant became the Distinguished Professor of French at Louisiana State University and later the City University of New York. After returning to Martinique to publish several emotive novels, Glissant was short-listed for the Nobel Prize in literature in 1992.

What's important to remember about Édouard Glissant is his theory of the rhizome. In his treatment of abolition and post-colonialism, Glissant espoused the idea of negritude, or black solidarity, not as a movement of animosity or exclusivity but as part of his vision for a new world order.

According to Glissant, the rhizome as a theory of culture emphasizes the interface and infusion of races, cultures and ethnicities as opposed to a linear perception of history detailing a chronological ebb and flow of dominant cultures and their origins. Plurality must not only flourish in an ideal society, but must create new cultures, enriched by the fusion of disparate ideas.

Interestingly, Glissant's perspective on ethnic diversity has as much to offer to American racial reconciliation as does King's "I Have a Dream Speech." The rhizome embodies much of the story of America, a distinct cultural entity strengthened and nurtured by its roots — an interconnected labyrinth of traditions, religions, races and creeds.

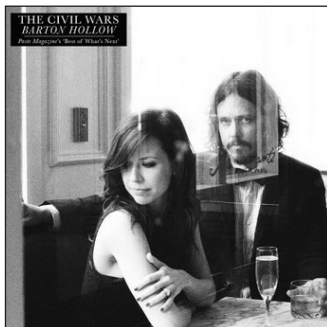
Perhaps a new voice to those outside the francophone world, Glissant's compendium of potent literature enshrined a relatively simple ideology with decidedly profound implications. Although he directed his philosophy toward his beloved French Caribbean, and not specifically the United States, Glissant's rhizome distills a powerful message for the American people: that true diversity creates a new culture much greater than the sum of its parts.

Editors' Picks

Albums

The Civil Wars: 'Barton Hollow'

"Barton Hollow" follows The Civil Wars hit single, "Poison and Wine," the song that pulled this act out of obscurity and into the spotlight. The pairing of John Paul White and Joy Williams is similar to The Swell Season — a unique blend of voices, emotionally wrenching lyrics and acoustic melodies.



"Oh your hands can heal, your hands can bruise. I don't have a choice, but I still choose you." (Poison and Wine)

The Avett Brothers: 'I and Love and You'



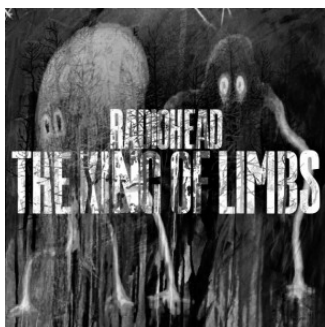
With "I and Love and You," two brothers from the Carolina sticks make their major label debut. Scott and Seth Avett's lyrically rich album will

leave you questioning its genre— Folk? Country? Pop? Rock? — but will leave you certain you've heard something fresh, introspective and soulful.

Radiohead: 'The King of Limbs'

Just released on Feb. 18, Radiohead's new album is considerably short and decidedly mellow; "typically rich with electronic texture," according to Rolling

Stone's Will Hermes. Its eight tracks comprise everything from the Eastern-infused "Little by Little" to the emotive piano melody "Codex." Reactions to the "King of Limbs" — released a day early — were rather understated; commensurate with its presentation.

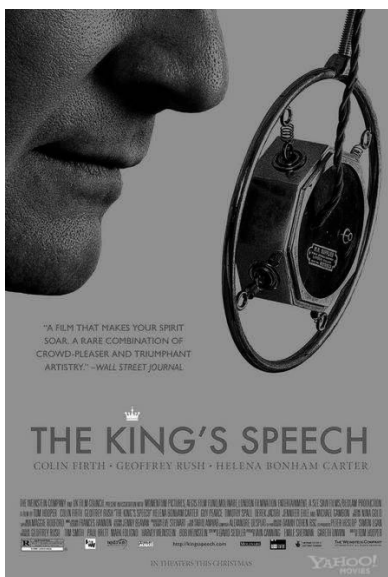


Movies

'The King's Speech'

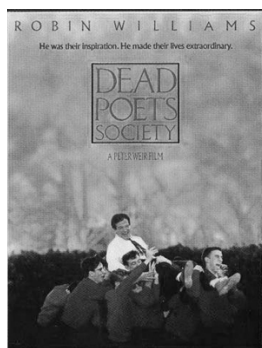
This Oscar-nominated film gives audiences another fictional-based-on-reality look into England's royal family. When Prince Albert, who suffers from a severe speech impediment, seeks help from a speech therapist with unorthodox methods, the two become friends. After Albert is suddenly thrust onto the throne, his therapist coaches him through his public speaking obligations in true "Pygmalion" fashion.

Colin Firth gives a convincingly stuttering performance as Prince Albert, and Geoffrey Rush completes the unlikely duo as Lionel Louge, the speech therapist. Helena Bonham Carter also stars as Albert's wife.



'Dead Poets Society'

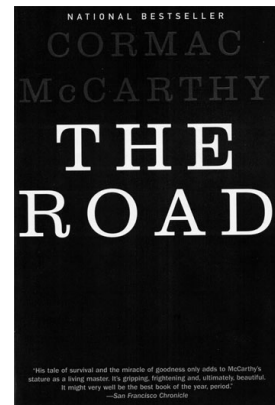
The 1989 film "Dead Poets Society" still encourages high school and college students to be English teachers — even those who were born after it was made. John Keating (Robin Williams), an erudite and charismatic English teacher at Welton Academy (a conservative all-boys school), inspires his students to "seize the day" through a nascent study of poetry. The boys restart the school literary club Keating founded when he was a student and embrace a life of art and literature, sparking a chain of events that change the school and each of their lives.



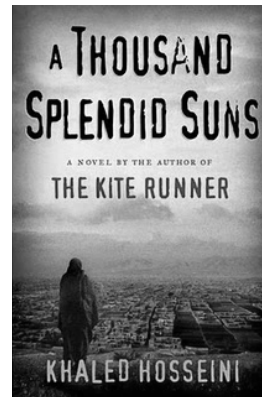
Books

'The Road' by Cormac McCarthy

This popular Cormac McCarthy novel is about a man and his son, who, with a grocery cart full of everything they own, trudge through charred, post-apocalyptic America. They walk alone with very little food and a pistol with only a handful of bullets — "each the other's world entire." Bleak, tragic, stark, rough, but in the two's sacrificial love for one another, ultimately hopeful.



'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini

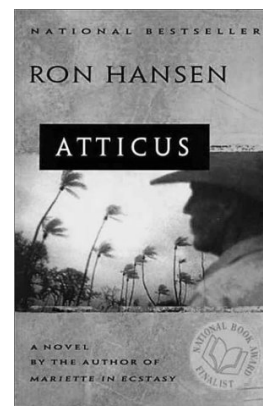


From the author of the international best-seller "The Kite Runner," Khaled Hosseini's second work "A Thousand Splendid Suns" details in harrowing poignancy the lives of two women in Afghanistan during Soviet control and the invasion of the Taliban.

"Resplendent, lachrymose; a tenaciously soul-wrenching perspective of Taliban-controlled Afghanistan." — Kate Cella

'Atticus' by Ron Hansen

Written by acclaimed Catholic novelist and essayist Ron Hansen, "Atticus" is the story of Colorado cattle rancher Atticus Cody, who goes to Mexico to retrieve the body of his adult son Scott, who committed suicide. A modern retelling of the parable of the prodigal son, "Atticus" is an engaging mystery novel that shimmers with superior imagery and literary style. Just as pleasurable upon re-read.



A Musical Hit



Photos by Jonathan Moultroup
Jessica Hickling as Dolly Levi and Alex Mol as Horace Vandergelder (top right) led a large cast in the winter musical "Hello, Dolly!" that played before several sellouts in Cedarville University's DeVries Theatre.